Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In reply refer to:
A7019 WASO

FO-922

January 11, 1951

Memorandum

To: All Field Offices

From: Acting Director

Subject: National Park Service Assistance and Use of NPS Areas During the Present National Emergency

The National Park Service is an essential agency, no less during a national emergency than during peace time. The National Park System, the things it stands for, and the service it renders are fundamentally an outgrowth of our democracy. They are among everlasting public values which the Nation is proud of and will defend. It is only right that all the things that help us to be a great democracy should be used to their fullest extent to assist in defending that same democracy in times of emergency.

The use during World War II brought widespread appreciation of the values of units of the National Park System. During that period the Service received some ill-advised proposals and withstood many pressures that threatened irreplaceable values of the areas it administers. Many military and civic leaders learned that these areas could be used along lines of their intended purposes to strengthen our fighting and working forces. There developed actual and intangible results of a better understanding and a greater appreciation of what the National Park System is and the policies governing it. In retrospect, most everyone agrees that the areas, used with consideration of the basic principles for which they were established, served uniquely and better with national benefits during the war than if their natural resources had been permitted to be removed and utilized.

During the present emergency the same basic principles of thought and operation will prevail, but we should be alert and active to be cooperative in every way we can and to make the regular services of the National Park System of fullest possible value. It shall be the responsibility of each and every park employee to assist representatives of groups engaged in defense in every way possible, using his time, ability, and the facilities at his disposal to aid in the emergency; however, it must be kept in mind that the Service areas with all their values must be protected and preserved if they are to be of real service in this emergency and for the years ahead.

In carrying out this fundamental policy, there will be questions with regard to authorities and procedures to be followed in permitting the temporary use of areas and facilities administered by

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

the Service in the current emergency defense programs. Acts of Congress, regulations and policies for safeguarding the natural, historical, and other components for which the areas were originally established must be followed basically.

Authorization for use may be granted by the Secretary, Director, Regional Director, or Superintendent, in accordance with the proposed type and period of use. General procedure will be similar to that used during World War II. To minimuze intra-Service correspondence and thus expedite responses to applications by the war and defense agencies, the following information is furnished:

1. Uses that will require Secretarial or Congressional approval.

   a. Continued use of areas, portion of areas, or facilities during the entire emergency.

   b. Use conflicting with the policies established by basic law, departmental regulations, or orders.

2. Uses which may be authorized by the Director.

   a. Continued use of areas, portion of areas, or facilities for extended period of 30 days or longer but not for duration of the emergency.

   b. Uses of areas or facilities for short periods of time to the exclusion of the public.

   c. Any use that will materially affect the landscape facilities, improvements or other park values.

3. All other uses may be covered by written permit to be issued by the Superintendent, except the following will require prior approval of the Regional Director:

   a. Uses that will require funds for rehabilitation.

   b. Uses that will involve the use of the area or facilities for more than one week's duration.

   c. Use of Park Service personnel or equipment for more than 3 consecutive days or an accumulative period of 10 days or more in any one month.

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

In connection with proposals for Service p rticipation in the defense programs, considerations as follows are important:

The application should come from an agency directly related to the war or defense program objectives.

If the proposed use would be destructive to elements for which the park was established, evidence should be obtained that all possible alternatives have been carefully considered and found to be unsatisfactory.

Whenever possible in the permits proposed for war or defense agencies, provisions should be incorporated so that the permittee agrees to repair all damages and restore the site before evacuating it or immediately after termination of use.

Permittees should maintain the sites in good condition during or promptly after short periods of use, as feasible, and as much restoration work as possible should be accomplished before a site is evacuated by the permittee. Frequent inspections by the Superintendent with emphasis on current maintenance of sites being occupied are important. Provision should be included, where applicable, for regular inspections of the premises under permit, by duly authorized National Park Service officials. In a few cases, exceptions may be required for national security reasons.

The Regional Director and Director should be supplied with pertinent information as soon as possible after it becomes known that an application for the approval of a permit by the Secretary or Director is likely to be made.

All authorizations for the use of areas administered by the Service, no matter what the character of that use, must be in writing, even though it is recognized that, in occasional emergency situations, they may be issued after the event.

For ease in identification, all permits should have DEFENSE USE typed in the upper right corner and all correspondence relating to requests or authorizations in the war or defense programs should include DEFENSE USE in capital letters as the first words of the subject heading.

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0

PERSONNEL

DEC 4 11 24 AM '52

RECEIVED
DEC 4 4 27 PM '52
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES

It is especially important that copies of all authorizations be supplied immediately to the Director and Regional Directors, as well as copies of all significant correspondence relating to them. It is important also that this Office be informed immediately concerning the denials of any "war-use" or defense operation request. Such information is necessary so that the Washington Office records may be complete and so that we may be prepared to act should the request, already denied, be submitted in a different form or through different channels.

Your full cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Acting Director

201-War Use 673

Interior--Duplicating Section, Washington, D. C.

88379

Approved For Release 2003/08/05 : CIA-RDP78-04718A000800290149-0